

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04425 112108Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /080 W  
-----081947 112116Z /64

P 112104Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8600  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04425

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: LABOR MINISTER MUNRO RESIGNS

1. LABOR MINISTER JOHN MUNRO RESIGNED SEPTEMBER 8 AFTER IT HAD BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAD CALLED A PROVINCIAL JUDGE JUST BEFORE SENTENCE WAS PASSED ON A MAN CONVICTED OF ASSAULT. MUNRO CLAIMED THAT HIS CALL WAS NOT DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE THE JUDGE, BUT TO KEEP A PROMISE HE MADE TO PROVIDE A CHARACTER REFERENCE FOR THE CONVICTED INDIVIDUAL.

2. COMMENT: MUNRO'S CALL WAS CLEARLY IN VIOLATION OF THE GUIDELINES THAT TRUDEAU HAD ESTABLISHED FOR HIS MINISTERS AFTER FORMER PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER BUD DRURY HAD TELEPHONED A JUDGE CONCERNING A CONTEMPT-OF-COURT CASE INVOLVING THE THEN CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER OUELLET. MUNRO HAS HAD SEVERAL MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS SINCE 1968, AND THOUGH HE WAS NEVER A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE TRUDEAU CABINET, HE WAS GENERALLY REGARDED AS HARD-WORKING AND CONSCIENTIOUS. IN FACT, HE ONLY RECENTLY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING TO SETTLE THE AIR CANADA STRIKE.

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3. WE DOUBT THAT MUNRO'S RESIGNATION WILL DO ANY PERMANENT HARM TO THE GOVERNMENT, PARTLY BECAUSE HE ACTED QUICKLY IN SUBMITTING HIS RESIGNATION ONCE HIS CALL BECAME KNOWN AND PARTLY BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS MORE SERIOUS SCANDALS INVOLVING CABINET MINISTERS WHICH GENERALLY HAVE HAD NO

MAJOR LASTING EFFECT.  
ENDERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, COURT DECISIONS, JUDGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978OTTAWA04425  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780370-0199  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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